

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

Suitable lactic acid and lactide polymers include those homopolymers and copolymers of lactic acid and/or lactide which have a weight average molecular weight generally ranging from ~~about 10,000 g/mol to about 600,000 g/mol, preferably from~~ about 30,000 g/mol to about 400,000 g/mol, ~~more~~ preferably from about 50,000 g/mol to about 200,000 g/mol. An example of commercially available polylactic acid polymers include a variety of polylactic acids that are available from the Chronopol Incorporation located in Golden, Colorado, and the polylactides sold under the tradename EcoPLA®. Examples of suitable commercially available polylactic acid is NATUREWORKS from Cargill Dow and LACEA from Mitsui Chemical. Preferred is a homopolymer or copolymer of poly lactic acid having a melting temperature from about 160° to about 175°C. Modified poly lactic acid and different stereo configurations may also be used, such as poly L-lactic acid and poly D,L-lactic acid with D-isomer levels up to 75%.